

The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, DUMBO Paper

and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper



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EXCLUSIVE**BRUCE RATNER TELLS BUILDING TRADES GROUP:**

PATAKI, MTA BACK ARENA

By Deborah Kolben
and Neil Sloane

The Brooklyn Papers
Speaking at a building trades conference in Manhattan Thursday, developer Bruce Ratner thanked the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Gov. George Pataki for backing his \$2.5 billion arena plan.

"The government has been wonderful — the mayor, the governor, city and state officials, the MTA has been wonderful — in supporting both projects," Ratner said, referring to both his plan to build an arena for the New Jersey Nets near the junction of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, and a separate plan to renovate the New York Stock Exchange on the New York Jets' Manhattan's west side.

Ratner's statement marks the second time in just over a week that either Ratner or a spokesman have claimed to have the support of the governor and the MTA — whose 20-member board Pataki appoints — for the developer's arena yards plan, where towers would reach upwards of 60 stories on demapped mega-blocks.

The support of the MTA, which controls the Long Island Rail Road yards over which a large portion of the project would be built, is crucial, as is that of Pataki, whose Empire State Development Corp. would be needed to condemn 10 acres of private property in

See **PATAKI** on page 5

Lawyer Francis Heuel on Duffield Street near Fulton Street where he is involved in organizing Chinese and Korean merchants to protect themselves in the face of Downtown Brooklyn Plan evictions.

Asian bizmen told: Know your rights

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, Mike Kim is sitting at the front table of Duffield Street Seafood, reading a Bible and greeting long-time customers, who flock to his shop just off Fulton Mall for plates of hot fish and chips.

With the sound of crackling oil in the background, and the smell of tartar sauce thick in the air, Kim explains to a visiting attorney that he's had his business in the area for more than 17 years.

Kim is one of many Asian-American merchants in Downtown Brooklyn

**NOT JUST NETS
THE NEW BROOKLYN**

to whom a pair of Manhattan attorneys are offering legal assistance.

With a massive rezoning plan which could court soaring new office and residential towers in a 60-block south of downtown Brooklyn currently under city review, many local businesses fear they will be priced out or their properties condemned to make way for future development.

Francis Hsueh, an attorney in his early 30s who recently left a corporate See **MERCHANTS** on page 5

Illegal tows in Heights



A police tow truck with its fresh-caught quarry at Clinton and Joralemon streets in the Heights Tuesday.

EXCLUSIVE

DOT: Police towers don't know rules

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The police department is towing legally parked cars in Brooklyn Heights because enforcement agents don't know they are not supposed to. The Brooklyn Center for Justice says.

That's because of a confusing system of signage unique to the area that prevents parking on one side of certain streets from 8 am to 6 pm, one day a week, while allowing parking on the other side during those hours. On other streets, and along certain stretches of the same street, parking is barred for only 90 minutes, once a week.

At the crux of the confusion is that the 90-minute signs bear a large black letter "P" inside a red circle, with a red brickwick shadow underneath, indicating that there is no parking allowed there during those hours for street cleaning. The "NO PARKING 8 am-6 pm" signs have such emblem.

The 8 am to 6 pm alternate side parking rules are not considered

See **TOWING** on page 6

Cheap eats week

Boro's first restaurant week kicks off April 15By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Goodbye, Elaine's, hello Marco Polo.

In an announcement sure to have Manhattanites reaching for their subway mints, Borough President Marty Markowitz unveiled "Dine In Brooklyn," his answer to the city's semiannual restaurant week.

During the week of April 15-22, diners will have a chance to nosh on three-course, prix fixe meals from 93 restaurants in 20 Brooklyn neighborhoods. Aside from 38 Zagat-rated eateries, including Planet Thailand in Williamsburg, Smith Street, the list extends to classics like Tatiana in Brighton Beach and one of Markowitz's favorites, Junior's. "Trust me," said Markowitz,

well-known as a devotee of the borough's culinary delights, "when any of these restaurants make you smile on their face — and that's not because I'm the borough president, if you know what I mean."

Markowitz boasted that the \$18.98 price, inspired by the New York City, is \$1 cheaper than what's demanded for dinners during Manhattan's restaurant weeks [lunches went for \$20.04 this year]. The price is the same for either lunch or dinner, and includes appetizers offering the special on both menus.

See **CHEAP** on page 14

Lisa and Nicole Bamonte, from Bammonte's in Williamsburg, display a signature dish at Borough Hall Thursday.

Judicial selection process challenged

Associated Press

A New York University watchdog group asked a federal court Thursday to change the way the state selects judges, arguing the current system gives too much power to county political bosses.

Under current rules, Democratic and Republican leaders handpick the candidates for Supreme Court justice posts at nominating conventions before the public votes on them in general elections.

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU wants the system changed to direct primaries, where voters themselves would get the chance to pick each party's candidates.

The center filed a lawsuit in Brooklyn federal court against the state Board of Elections. The center asked a judge to declare the current system unconstitutional and give the Legislature 90 days to replace it.

The current selection system

robs voters of their constitutional right to choose their Supreme Court justices, and destroys voter turnout in the judiciary," Brennan Center lawyer Jeremy Creenan said.

The elections board did not immediately return a call for comment.

The lawsuit took aim at what the plaintiffs said is a complicated set of obstacles set up to make sure party leaders choose which delegates go to the nominating convention.

District Attorney Charles Hynes, who has been investigating judicial corruption, commanded the Brennan Center for "challenging a process where party leadership determines who becomes a Supreme Court Justice through an election" that he helped to pass.

Hynes launched his investigation of the Brooklyn judiciary after the arrest of Supreme Court Justice Gerald Garson last April. Garson was the See **CHALLENGE** on page 6

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78 PCT. BLOTTER

Gunpoint rob on 5th

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Two men leaving a deli on Fifth Avenue at Fifth Street were held up at gunpoint just after 1 a.m. on March 12.

"Drop your wallets," the street robbers instructed as they approached from behind.

As if to emphasize the point, one suspect pulled out a gun from his waistband.

"You think I'm playing?" he asked.

The victims, 18 and 20, who apparently did not mistake the holdup for a game, placed their wallets on the ground and turned around as the stickup men requested.

The pair took \$45 in cash and several credit cards and then fled, police said.

Empty handed

Two men who were in a black minivan burst into a supermarket on Seventh Avenue at Carroll Street at 12:35 a.m. — or the store was closed — on March 14.

After also failing to get into the cash register, the pair fled without anything at all, police said.

Rented for good

Why rent a car when you just can steal one?

A sporty Toyota Solara went missing this week from a car rental lot on Warren Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The car was last seen parked at 3 p.m. on March 12.

But during a routine inventory check at 1 p.m. the next day, the car was nowhere to be found, police said.

There was no broken glass.

Java Joe

A coffee lover might have gone too far this week when he tried to pocket \$30 worth of espresso beans from a Fifth Avenue supermarket.

The man allegedly stuffed the beans into a brown paper bag and tried to slip out of the store on Union Street. But the owner recognized the man from a surveillance tape and identified him as a repeat shoplifter.

When the owner tried to stop him, a fight ensued and the bean-stealer fled westbound down Smith Street, police said.

The owner suffered cuts to his right fingers.

"Drop your wallets," the street robbers instructed as they approached from behind.

As if to emphasize the point, one suspect pulled out a gun from his waistband.

"You think I'm playing?" he asked.

The victim, 56, left the car at 12:10 a.m. on March 12. But when she returned to retrieve the car about two hours later, it was nowhere to be found.

In addition to the car, the crooks made off with the victim's reading glasses, gloves, memory aid, a portable air compressor, pillow, blanket, men's jacket and a radar detector.

Odd job

A motorist from Illinois got a real taste of New York this week when she parked her car at Carroll Street and Fifth Avenue.

The pair took \$45 in cash and several credit cards and then fled, police said.

Odd job

A burglar broke into an apartment on 10th Street near Fourth Avenue and made off with an odd assortment of belongings, including a folding chair, a punching bag, hooded gloves and a punching bag.

The 33-year-old resident left the apartment at 8:30 a.m. on March 12.

But when she returned just before 5 p.m., she found the front door ajar.

The stolen goods also included a DVD player valued at \$100, a television, a video game system, a cell phone, charger and remote controls, police said.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of ONSAN LLC, a Domestic Limited Liability Company LLC, Articles of Organization filed 3/10/03, NY office located at 301 Kings Plaza, Suite 1000, Brooklyn, NY 11234. NY office located at 301 Kings Plaza, Suite 1000, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Notice of Dissolution of ONSAN LLC, a Domestic Limited Liability Company LLC, Articles of Dissolution filed 3/10/03, NY office located at 301 Kings Plaza, Suite 1000, Brooklyn, NY 11234. NY office located at 301 Kings Plaza, Suite 1000, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. P511

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The 'Art' of canal cleaning

Push anew to name Gowanus tunnel for 'Honeymooners' Carney

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

He was the beloved sewer worker to the tune of Gleason's bumbling Ralph Kramden on TV's "The Honeymooners," the classic 1950s sitcom that celebrated working-class Brooklynites in their natural habitat. Whenever Kramden went, Art Carney's Ed Norton dutifully followed, with impeccable comic timing.

But 15 years after a bus driver's death sparked a long battle over Gleason for his fictional contribution to mass transit, a similar proposal to name the Gowanus Canal Pumping Station after his stage-slitting upstairs neighbor continues to move forward.

Robert Adamski, a retired sewer worker, told The Brooklyn Papers this week that the initiative, clogged since Carney declined the offer in 1989, has resurfaced after the Ed Norton and Oscar-winning actor died last November. Adamski and members of several sewerage-related organizations said they plan to resubmit proposals for the honor, which would need the approval of the City Council and mayor.

"There's a renewed effort," said Adamski. "But because of [the Carney] family's concern about it, I left him after something with sewage in the title, they're looking for something else to name."

The pumping station, located on Butler Street near the industrial polluted waterway, became notorious in the wake of a after more than 30 years of pluming. It pumps clean water into the polluted canal from the Upper New York Bay.

Adamski said that at least two years ago, residents in New York have suggested making Carney an honorary member, including the intriguingly named Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Show-offs and the Golden Manhole Society, which has voted to name the proposal this summer.

Gleason, on the other hand, is already an honorary member of the city's Transport Workers Union.

"I think whatever we name,



Art Carney as Ed Norton on "The Honeymooners."

sewers or waste treatment. Eleventh-hour officials and a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which would oversee such a tribute, said they will honor the family's wishes.

"We are working with the Carney family, but we believe doing something like this is appropriate and that they would approve of," said Natalie Milner, a DEP spokeswoman. "But no decision has been made yet."

Carney's journey toward immortality began shortly after Gleason died in 1989, according to the Bus depot on Fifth Avenue between 36th and 39th streets in 1988. Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials lunged at the opportunity, and the agency honored Gleason, who was born in Bushwick and acted in more than 30 films, including his memorable role as Minnesota Fats in "The Hustler." The Gleason family predictably obliged.

A statue of Gleason in his

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Transition from pre-k to kindergarten

Q: My 5-year-old son is in full-day preschool/kindergarten, and his school's director has concerns about him moving to kindergarten.

— a mother

As a school's concerns about your child aren't likely to be put off until the end-of-the-year surprise.

"The transition to kindergarten is so important," says Amy Wilkins, executive director of The Trust for Early Education. "It's serious business dealing with these young humans."

Unfortunately, she says, there is no public policy that will snap into place to smooth the transition — so the job is up to parents and teachers.

The decision about whether to retain a pre-k child should be based on specific observations that well-trained teachers and parents share back and forth throughout the year, Wilkins says. Both sides also need to know what will be expected of the child in kindergarten.

Parents wrestle with a tough question: Is my child going to be bored with another year of pre-kindergarten? Or is it a good idea because he can't sit still or control his impulses?

Visit the school your youngster will attend, several parents suggest, and talk to friends whose kids have attended. Ask if kindergarteners are the teachers responsive to individual learning styles? Is there a variety of materials for hands-on activities?

Research on how children learn shows that one of the best ways to improve math and reading scores is to reach children before they enter kindergarten, says Wilkins.

A national survey of public kindergarten teachers noted three-quarters of essential school readiness: children are physically healthy, rested and well-nourished; children are able to communicate needs, wants and thoughts verbally; and children are enthusiastic and curious in approaching new activities.

In the wide span of what's normal, it's typical for 4- and 5-year-olds to race ahead in some areas of social, emotional, physical and cognitive development but to lag in others — then catch up. What if your child isn't ready to move on?

"Don't think of it as holding the child back. You're giving the child the gift of another year of social-emotional development," says Kristen Clark, a preschool director. "An extra year gives a child the chance to grow and blossom."

The current, controversial push for academics earlier in school is not necessarily important not to send a child out of the parental and preschool nest too soon, says Clark, a mother of three.

Can you help?

"My 15-month-old daughter

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flager

is awesome, but I'm afraid she's accustomed to being entertained and loved so much that she expects it and can't play by herself as much as I'd like. How can I teach her to be more independent?" — a mother

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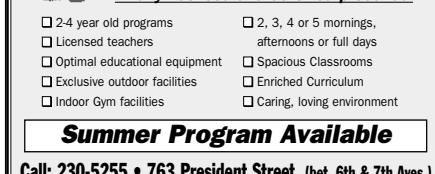
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NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

BUILDer steps down

President of pro-Ratner group accuses members of seeking 'financial self gain'

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

environmental concerns and other community needs.

The president of the group Brooklyn United for Innovative Development, Darnell Canada, has stepped down, claiming the group he helped found has veered from its initial goal of securing jobs for the community from developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards development.

In his resignation, Darnell Canada accused fellow BUILD leaders of seeking "financial self gain" out of the proposal to build a professional basketball arena and housing and office towers in Prospect Heights.

"I am resigning out of the need to distance myself from those in the organization who see this organization as financial self gain, rather than the needs of the Brooklyn community," Canada wrote in a letter circulated to local community groups.

For the past few months, BUILD has been working with Ratner to secure jobs for local residents if the proposed Atlantic Yards plan, including a \$450 million basketball arena to house the New Jersey Nets, goes the go-ahead from the state.

The group is angling for a community benefits agreement with the developer, a legal document first used in Los Angeles to address local hiring, affordable housing,

"We would like to see jobs for people in the community, but our focus is that whatever happens the community has a big say," said Patti Hagan, a spokeswoman for the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, an anti-arena group.

"Part of a community benefits agreement should be no eminent domain. No one's job or home should be eliminated in order to construct something else," Hagan added.

Eric Blackwell, an urban studies professor at Long Island University and executive director of BUILD, declined to comment on Canada's allegations.

"I am grateful like this innovative community group to help to create the kind of atmosphere where people can make money," said Blackwell.

BUILD members have long complained that Metrotech, a major high rise office complex in Downtown Brooklyn, provided few jobs or business opportunities for local residents. The group was formed last year to advocate for jobs in the response to massive development in the Downtown Brooklyn area.

James Caldwell, president of the 77th Precinct Community Council, will step to replace Canada as BUILD's president.

The tricky part about negotiating a community benefits agreement with the developer is often determining who will benefit and how much benefit a developer will provide.

Queens councilman will hold Nets arena hearing

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

19,000-seat basketball arena at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues to house Ratner's recently purchased Nets is expected to be approved by the state.

Ratner unveiled plans for the 21-acre development in December when he announced his intentions to purchase the basketball arena, which he will not be stopped.

Councilman James Sanders, chairman of the Economic Development Committee, will hold hearings on the plan to build a basketball arena for the New Jersey Nets and office and residential towers on the Atlantic Yards project, a Queens councilman said this week he will

not be stopped.

Amid rumors that developer Bruce Ratner and City Council Speaker Gifford Miller were trying to rip off the bid plan to hold a hearing on the Atlantic Yards project, a Queens councilman said this week he will

not be stopped.

Ratner is asking the state to use its power of eminent domain to seize more than two square city blocks of private land housing between 400 to 800 people.

He is also asking the state to turn over the air rights over 11 acres of the Long Island and Park Road storage yards, stretching along Atlantic Avenue between Fifth and Vanderbilt avenues.

But Sanders says he wants to see if the plan is a "good financial deal for New York City" and plans to bring in development experts to critique it.

Asked about attempts to thwart the hearings, the councilman and former Marine, who was inundated with dozens of e-mails in support of the hearing this week, said, "I assure you, no one tells me what to do."

"I've seen all kinds of statements that the speaker is pressuring us. That just hasn't happened. I've received no calls from the speaker or his staff on this issue," Sanders said.

"That's absolutely not true," said Ratner spokesman Barry Baum.

Miller's office did not respond to a request for comment.

The hearing is tentatively scheduled for the end of April. Sanders says he is expecting "solid facts and numbers" from the developers.

"I think it would be an insult to the people of New York City if they come in and say they are still working on this," Sanders said.

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NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

PATAKI AND MTA ON BOARD, RATNER SAYS...

Continued from page 1

order for Ratner to realize his dream.

Last week, The Brooklyn Papers reported exclusively that Ratner, the Pataki-controlled Empire State Development Corp. (ESDC) and the MTA were close to an agreement that would establish the ESDC as the lead governmental agency on the project.

Forest City Ratner spokesman Joe Deplasico confirmed the tripwire agreement, saying the deal should be signed in upcoming weeks. The details, he said, were "still being worked out."

Ratner made his comments Thursday at a breakfast meeting of the New York Business Congress, a coalition of contractors, engineers and developers, at Club 101 on Park Avenue and 40th Street.

Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James, an ardent opponent of the plan, who attended the breakfast speech, said she didn't know whether Ratner had been "misrepresented" or whether the state "as represented by Mr. [Charles] Gargano" was basically engaging in deception.

Gargano heads the Empire State Development Corp.

"All indications from the MTA are they have not made a decision with regards to the Atlantic Yards project," James told The Brooklyn Papers Thursday evening.

"If there are backroom deals, that is a different story," she added. "I don't know what he means."

MTA spokesman Tom Kelly said Friday when asked about Ratner's comments.

Asked whether the MTA supports Ratner's plan, Kelly said, "we have been doing formally and we would take whatever steps are necessary for whoever wants to do anything at the site."

No formal proposal has been submitted to the MTA, he said, adding that it will be agenda for the next MTA board meeting, scheduled for March 31.

Gov. Pataki's office did not respond to calls for comments.

Questions about such deals between the MTA and Ratner were first raised last month when an MTA spokesman told The Brooklyn Papers on three separate occasions that Ratner had already purchased the development rights to build over the rail yards. The spokesman later said that information was in-



Left to right: Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki, Bruce Ratner, Sen. Charles Schumer, New York Merchantile Exchange Chairman Vincent Viola, and Hip-Hop artist and Nets investor Jay-Z, at a Jan. 23 news conference to announce the Ratner investment team's successful bid to buy the New Jersey Nets.

correct and apologized, explaining that he had incorrectly assumed that Ratner held the development rights.

"I did not understand that it was contingent on [Ratner] getting the team first," MTA spokesman Tom

Kelly told The Papers. "I put the cart before the horse. If he gets the Nets and wants to develop that arena where it's going to be built, then we have to go back to us and then we have to go to the MTA board."

But rather than explain that the

agency spokesman had simply made a mistake, MTA Executive Director Katherine Lapp chose to try and cover up the gaff by deflecting blame to The Brooklyn Papers.

In a letter to Assemblyman

Richard Brodsky, chairman of the public authority committee, who had asked the MTA for a clarification, Lapp said that The Brooklyn Papers had "incorrectly" reported the story.

"I have to figure out who I believe," Ratner said. Gargano, Sen. Sen. Montgomery, said Thursday, Montgomery recently received letters from both Gargano and Lapp explaining that no decision had been reached on whether to support the Ratner proposal.

Patti Giudice, a member of the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, said Thursday that she was not surprised at Ratner's statements.

"This confirms suspicion that there are dealings going on out of site of the public eye," she said. "It's a little bit like speaking out of school for him to thank them when their position is that they're neutral — they haven't put their stamp on anything," she added.

After the meeting, James also lashed out at Ratner for mischaracterizing the section of Prospect Heights where he plans to build the development.

"He led the industry to believe that this is a blighted area," said James. "The three-square-block area in-

cludes two recently converted luxury condominiums and anywhere from 400 to 800 renters and owners.

James accused Ratner of "lowballing" the number of residents who would be displaced. Those residents have hired civil rights attorney Norm Siegel to fight their cause.

Both James and Montgomery are asking that the MTA solicit open bids for the development of the rail yards. James is holding a workshop Saturday to solicit alternatives from the public (see story below).

Asked on Thursday about possibly downscaling the towers, the tallest of which would reach 620 feet high — 100 feet taller than the Wal-Mart Supercenter building, currently the tallest in Brooklyn — Ratner said, "It's about the architecture, not the height."

Frank Gehry, best known for designing the Guggenheim Bilbao in Spain, is designing the 7.7-million-square-foot Atlantic Yards development.

Ratner still needs to finalize his purchase of the New Jersey Nets and would then need to get the approval of the National Basketball Association to move the team to Brooklyn

MERCHANTS...

Continued from page 1

firm to open a private practice in Chinatown, is trying to educate roughly 50 Asian-American merchants in the area about what could happen to their livelihoods if the Downtown Brooklyn Plan is approved.

The Brooklyn Law School graduate, who has also worked with the Asian American Legal Defense Fund, has been following the plan closely ever since.

"It seemed like there was no response from Asian owners," said Hsieh.

"Generally, in Asian countries, people are used to governments being more authoritarian. Whatever comes down from above, that is what we're supposed to do. There isn't this same notion of 'let's try to get input from the community and then reach consensus,'" he said.

Part of his challenge in convincing people that there's a way to fit the plan, said Hsieh.

For the downtown effort, the Chinese-American lawyer has teamed up with Austin Kyongwon So, a Korean-American attorney, to try to convince local business and ethnic groups among business owners in the area. They are offering their services to the merchants for free.

The plan provides for the construction of at least 6.7 million square feet of office space, 1 million square feet of residential units and 2,500 parking spaces.

As part of the complex proposal, the city intends to use the power of eminent domain to condemn seven acres of private property, including 130 residential units and 100 businesses.

Armed with flyers written in Chinese and a stack of newspaper clippings, Hsieh walked in the Fulton Mall area last week distributing information and encouraging business owners to attend the City Planning Commission's public hearing on the plan in the Kilday Auditorium at New York City Technical College at 285 Jay St.) at 10 am on Wednesday, March 24.

Last Saturday, So, a corporate attorney and board member of the Korean American League for Civic Action (KALCA) organized a meeting with 15 Korean-American business owners with local groups who are opposed to the plan.

"Most residents and business owners don't

seem to have been adequately informed," said So, who is also helping to organize an association of merchants in the area.

While KALCA has not taken an official stance on the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, So says they are busy trying to educate owners and encourage them to speak out at the public hearings.

Call for comment on the Asian-American legal defense fund, executive director of the MetroTech Business Improvement District, which also operates the Fulton Mall Improvement Association, said the city had notified any merchants who would be affected by the plan.

And Michael Burke, executive director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, the group that helped devise the Downtown Plan, said his organization had reached out to merchants in the area.

"In China, government will do something like condemn a factory, and basically their decision is like a mandate from heaven," said Hsieh. "You can see that in people's minds whether government is convincing them going to do something, a feeling of, 'Oh, of course they can do it.'

Businesses owners who face condemnation will be offered assistance in finding "suitable new commercial space in the area," according to Carol Lee, a spokeswoman for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. In addition, she said, they will be provided "moving expenses, dislocation allowances and fixture awards."

If the Downtown Plan is approved, Kim's Duffield Street Seafood may be among the first to go.

"Across the street, the city is planning to build Willoughby Square, a 1.5-acre open space over an underground parking garage.

The surrounding blocks are designated as development sites for premiere office space.

But Kim, who moved here from Korea 25 years ago, said he does not want to relocate.

"And neither do I," he said.

"This place is like an institution," said Roberto Doornik, who works at the ASA Institute around the corner and grabs lunch at Duffield Street Seafood almost every day.

Standing outside the shop, Hsieh took a look along Duffield Street and said, "This project would not just affect the landscape, but thousands of lives."

The area covered by the Downtown Plan overlaps, but is separate from, the Atlantic Yards site on which developer Bruce Ratner is building 19 residential megablocks, a professional basketball arena, soaring office towers and 4,500 units of housing south of the rail yards.

Ratner, whose office is located in the Marcy Heights office complex in Downtown Brooklyn, hired architect Frank Gehry to design the 8-million-square-foot development extending from Flushing and Atlantic Avenues east into Parkside Heights.

Not so far, says James, who is a fervent opponent of Ratner's plan, which would require condemning

Saturday workshop solicits ideas for Atlantic Yards plan

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

The site is where billionaire developer Bruce Ratner wants to construct the Atlantic Yards project, a collection of residential buildings, 19 residential megablocks, a professional basketball arena, soaring office towers and 4,500 units of housing south of the rail yards.

"The site needs to be developed, but it needs to be developed consistent with some of the pressing issues in the community," James said.

Markus Brown, an architect, urban designer and Fort Greene resident is one of the leaders of the workshop, which is expected to draw upwards of 100 attendees.

"One of the first things we want to do is change the public discussion a little bit," said Brown. "Right now, the media is going on about the arena, or

more than two square city blocks of privately owned property and displacing thousands of residents," he said. "I believe the rail yard site should be developed."

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Official review of D'town B'klyn Plan continues on Wednesday

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

The area covered by the Downtown Plan overlaps, but is separate from, the Atlantic Yards site on which developer Bruce Ratner is building 19 residential megablocks, a professional basketball arena and high-rise apartment and office buildings.

The Downtown Plan hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, at 10 am in the New York City College of Technology's Kilday Auditorium, at 285 Jay St.

The Downtown Plan would allow for the construction of nearly 7 million square feet of residential, office and retail space, including 1,000 units of housing and 2,500 parking spaces.

After lengthy debate, Community Board 2, the first stop on the Urban Land Use Review Panel (ULURP), failed to make a recommendation on the plan before it moved on to Borough President Marty Markowitz.

A majority of board members who voted, however, expressed reservations about the condemnation of private property.

Last week, Markowitz signed off on a proposal but attached a laundry list of conditions regarding traffic and transportation in particular concerns.

After the City Planning Commission

vote, the application moves to the City Council for a final vote and, if approved there, goes before Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a staunch supporter of the plan.

The mayor appoints seven members to the 13-member City Planning Commission, including the chair, who is also the director of City Planning, the lead agency on the D'town B'klyn application. Each borough president also appoints one member, as does the public advocate appoints one.

For more information on the hearing contact the Department of City Planning at (212) 720-3300.

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March 20, 2004

TOWING CARS ILLEGALLY...

Continued from page 1

street cleaning rules.

But the city Department of Transportation, which makes the parking rules, and the Department of Finance, which collects the fines, ban both types of alternate side streets as being suspended on religious, state and national holidays and on other days when they are announced as suspended, such as last week's winter storm.

For example, alternate side parking was suspended on Feb. 18 for snow removal. On that Wednesday morning, several cars parked along the western side of Henry Street between Midwood and Orange streets, which remained there rather than move to the opposite side of the street, were towed and ticketed, even though the parking rules had been suspended. Then, on Feb. 20, NYPD tow trucks were standing ready to tow at the stroke of 8:00 am, according to several residents.

The reason for the feeding frenzy has to do with a lack of communication between the Department of Transportation and the police department, according to a DOT spokesman.

And the cost to residents who listen to radio traffic reports, or check their city's Web site and are told that alternate side of the street parking is suspended: \$185 for the tow and a \$60 parking ticket.

"There's mass confusion," said the DOT spokesman, who recently received a \$60 ticket and had her car towed when she parked on Henry Street even though alternate side of the street parking had been suspended.

Transportation Department spokesman Tom Cocola told The Papers that even though the 8 am to 6 pm signs do not have the street-cleaning emblem, the alternate side parking rules still apply, so drivers on those streets on holidays and other days when street cleaning rules are suspended.

He acknowledged the problem this week, and said DOT was considering adding a note to its parking signs, changing the law back so that those streets would not follow the street cleaning suspension rules.

Acknowledged that the towed cars on snowy days, Cocola said it could be a problem with enforcement.

But a spokesman for the police department said officers and tow truck drivers just enforce the signs.

"We go according to what the signs say, we don't ignore the signs," he said. "The 8 am to 6 pm streets are considered suspended on those days."

Cocola said his office has reached out to both the Department of Transportation and the police department to find out why she was towed.

When she asked local police officers, she was told they didn't know whether she could park there.

She called the city's information hotline, may be dispensing incorrect information.

Contacted this week, a SFPD

police department tow trucks that descend upon the neighborhood on alternate-side days will tow them anyway.

One reason is for sure, on one side of the street, the tow operator said that "No Parking 8 am-6 pm" rules were not suspended even though the city had declared a snow day.

Another reason is that signs on the other side of the street read: "No Parking 8 am-6 pm" streets read: "Parking Permitted 8 am-6 pm" on the alternate-side day. Those signs not listed in the parking rules, posted by the agency responsible for street-cleaning, Cocola, on days when alternate side rules are suspended, parking is permitted on both sides of the street leading to another problem.

Judith McGarry, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, said that because the streets in the Heights are so narrow, there is a concern fire trucks and emergency vehicles will not be able to get through if they have to be in an ambulance on one of these days," she said.

The rules changed in the mid-1990s, but the community was not widely notified, according to McGarry, who said the 8 am to 6 pm signs did not follow the street-cleaning regulation suspensions.

Kathy Marshall got a \$60 ticket on Feb. 3 for leaving her car in the "No Parking from 8 am to 6 pm" zone on Henry Street. But when her husband, Brian McGarry, researched the regulation, he found the ticket was unfounded.

"When people can't understand what they're doing, there's a problem," McGarry said.

After a half-hour of research and two hours in traffic court McGarry got the ticket dismissed.

McGarry also had \$60 tickets issued to her, which were dismissed when she presented the judge with a printout from the Department of Finance outlining the regulation.

McGarry said signs requiring parking for periods of six or more consecutive hours on one day per week or on alternate days, are not street cleaning parking rules. However, such restrictions are suspended on days that street cleaning rules are suspended.

He acknowledged the problem this week, and said DOT was considering adding a note to its parking signs, changing the law back so that those streets would not follow the street cleaning suspension rules.

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Judith McGarry, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, said that because the streets in the Heights are so narrow, there is a concern fire trucks and emergency vehicles will not be able to get through if they have to be in an ambulance on one of these days," she said.

The rules changed in the mid-1990s, but the community was not widely notified, according to McGarry, who said the 8 am to 6 pm signs did not follow the street-cleaning regulation suspensions.

Kathy Marshall got a \$60 ticket on Feb. 3 for leaving her car in the "No Parking from 8 am to 6 pm" zone on Henry Street. But when her husband, Brian McGarry, researched the regulation, he found the ticket was unfounded.

"When people can't understand what they're doing, there's a problem," McGarry said.

After a half-hour of research and two hours in traffic court McGarry got the ticket dismissed.

McGarry also had \$60 tickets issued to her, which were dismissed when she presented the judge with a printout from the Department of Finance outlining the regulation.

McGarry said signs requiring parking for periods of six or more consecutive hours on one day per week or on alternate days, are not street cleaning parking rules. However, such restrictions are suspended on days that street cleaning rules are suspended.

He acknowledged the problem this week, and said DOT was considering adding a note to its parking signs, changing the law back so that those streets would not follow the street cleaning suspension rules.

Acknowledged that the towed cars on snowy days, Cocola said it could be a problem with enforcement.

But a spokesman for the police department said officers and tow truck drivers just enforce the signs.

"We go according to what the signs say, we don't ignore the signs," he said. "The 8 am to 6 pm streets are considered suspended on those days."

Cocola said his office has reached out to both the Department of Transportation and the police department to find out why she was towed.

When she asked local police officers, she was told they didn't know whether she could park there.

She called the city's information hotline, may be dispensing incorrect information.

Contacted this week, a SFPD

police department tow trucks that descend upon the neighborhood on alternate-side days will tow them anyway.

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one side of the street, the tow

operator said that "No Park-

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fied.

In response to a Brooklyn

Paper story, a memo from the

Brooklyn Heights Councilman

David Yassky said Yassky is

looking to clear up the confu-

sion.

"It's unnecessarily confus-

ing and we're trying to fig-

ure out a way to fix this," said Yas-

sky spokesman Evan Thies.

"There's different agencies

telling people different things

and they shouldn't be pun-

ished for not understanding

what is an extremely convolu-

ted law," Thies said.

What's more, Cross said, Cross

both got their tickets dismissed

in court, not everyone does.

"Some people don't have

time to fight the ticket," said Cross.

"It's not fair that they ticket rampantly and some

people are too busy to look up

the rules and fight it."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 20, 2004

Heat wave

Brooklynites are discovering the benefits of very hot yoga

By Chiara V. Cowan
for *The Brooklyn Papers*

Despite chilly, gusting winds outside, the temperature is rising inside of Hot Yoga People, in Fort Greene. In fact, it is rising in yoga studios throughout Brooklyn.

At HYP, co-owner Anita Ruderman greets yogis (male and female yoga students, respectively), with a warm smile and words of encouragement. Thirty minutes earlier, she turned up the heat at Bikram Yoga, the studio in prospect for her new training class.

"You need the perfect combination of temperature and humidity to conduct a hot yoga class," said Ruderman. The heat allows for deeper stretching and produces more sweat, which enables the body to release more toxins, she explained.

Although yoga is a 5,000-year-old practice, hot yoga is a fairly new phenomenon and hot yoga centers are very new to Brooklyn. While there are several different types of yoga involving various poses and postures, hot yoga follows a set series of 26 Hatha poses and two breathing exercises. The main difference between hot yoga and other types is the temperature.

"The heated room allows the body to become more flexible at a quicker rate," said Laura McCracken, owner of Every Breath You Take Hot Yoga, in Prospect Park.

After encouragement from his Guru, Bishnu Ghosh, in Calcutta, India, Yogi Raj Bikram Choudhury, the founder of the worldwide Yoga College of India, brought yoga to Beverly Hills, Calif., in the mid-1970s. There he spent 10 years developing his own series of 26 classic postures with Western doctors. Slowly, the temperature rose and the series came to life.

"The system is designed to work every part of your body, so that it is a full-body workout," said Atsushi Nakasone, co-owner of Bikram Yoga, in Carroll Gardens.

The 26 poses work every muscle, joint, ligament and internal organ in the body. Each pose is performed in a specific order to fully open and strengthen the body. For example, pose 15 cannot reach its maximum extension without having already exercised the first 14

FITNESS

Bikram Yoga is located at 106 Montague St., between Henry and Hicks streets, second floor, in Brooklyn Heights. Single Bikram class: \$20; 10-class pass: \$170; 20-class pass: \$2100; or visit www.bikramyogabrooklyn.com.

Every Breath You Take Hot Yoga is located at 108 Carroll Street, between Hoyt and Hoyt streets, second floor, in Park Slope. Single hot yoga class: \$18. For more information, call (718) 832-5070 or visit www.ebuthotyoga.com.

Hot Yoga People is located at 659 Fulton St., between Ashland and Rockwell places, between Henry and Hicks streets, second floor. Single hot yoga class: \$16. For more information, call (718) 237-2300 or visit www.yogapeople.com.

Repose Yoga is located at 1055 Franklin Ave., at 86th Street, in Bay Ridge. For more information, call (718) 238-0174 or visit www.reposeyoga.com.

Feel the burn: (Top) Instructor Erin McGarry demonstrates the standing bow pose at Bikram Yoga. (Above) Hot Yoga People co-owner Anita Ruderman (foreground) leads a class in her Fort Greene studio.



poses. The flow of the poses creates a balance between the mind, body and soul.

Carrie Bernstein, 31, of Fort Greene, has been practicing hot yoga at HYP since Ruderman opened the studio in November 2002.

"I like hot yoga because it really loosens me up," said Bernstein, 31, after a 90-minute workout. I attended other yoga classes before coming here, but I left feeling like I still had to do some type of cardiovascular activity."

Hot yoga classes run for 90 minutes and cost between \$16 and \$18 for a single class. (Class levels are available for advanced students.)

Temperatures usually range from 95 degrees to 105 degrees, but can reach as high as 110 degrees. Instructors coach students through each pose verbally, but never demonstrate the actual pose, because instructors must be able to monitor students' posture at all times.

According to Ruderman, hot yoga has many benefits, including toning, weight and stress reduction, injury recovery, and an increase in flexibility and energy.

"As of all the organs work together, strengthening the immune system, hot yoga also reverses aging process," said McCracken.

Although hot yoga does not cure chronic ailments such as diabetes or osteoporosis, it can help to relieve some of the symptoms, explained Troy Myers, co-owner of Bikram Yoga.

Young women or people with high blood pressure should consult their doctor before practicing hot yoga. Also, yogis and yoginis must not eat anything for at least two hours prior to the class, she added.

For certification, Bikram yoga students practice on a regular basis. Ruderman and McCracken have hardwood floors throughout their studios to eliminate odor.

"Bikram likes carpeted rooms, not hardwood floors," Nakasone said. "It's a liability issue, we sweat a lot. We practice in a stinky room with smelly bodies to find actual peace and calmness of ones. Finding calm is easy in the Himalayan Mountains, but trying calm in New York City."

The best part about hot yoga is that all people, regardless of age, size, or fitness level, benefit from it. It is a good for the body," noted Repose Yoga co-owner Williams, whose Bay Ridge studio does not offer hot yoga classes.

"At Repose, we concentrate on holistic well-being, body strength, flexibility, reducing stress and creating inner peace."

The difference between hot yoga and other forms of yoga is that it is a specific 26 postures of yoga that is used for the body," noted Repose Yoga co-owner Williams, whose Bay Ridge studio does not offer hot yoga classes.

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"A Midsummer Night's Dream," Aster Shakespear's "Twelfth Night," Anton Chekhov's "The Bear" and Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," Waterloo Bridge Theatre Company Artistic Director J. Brandon says he'll "keep the humor rolling" with Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

"The play is just great," Hill told GO Brooklyn. "It's also one of Shakespeare's happier plays. There's very little darkness."

As the comedy opens, Theseus, king of Athens, is about to marry Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, whom he has defeated in battle. The wedding will be celebrated by abundant festivities, including a presentation of "Pyramus and Thisbe" by Pyramus (played by Christopher Bakolas, left), the weaver, and the blundering Mechanicals.

Concurrently, Egeus, an Athenian father, has arranged his daughter, Hermia, to Demetrius, although she is in love with Lysander. But if Hermia does not care for Demetrius, her friend Helena is madly in love with him. Oberon, the fairy king who is feuding with his queen, Titania, decides to set things right, with the aid of his assistant Puck.

The company has made several original twists in production.

"We're doing three things people will either like or dislike," says Hill. "We hope people will like them: Mustardseed, handmaiden to Titania, is also Hippolyta's cook; also Theseus; and the Mechanicals have a love triangle — both Peter Quince and Tommaso Snout (now a woman) are in love with Nick Bottom."

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed in a newly renovated playhouse with more seats and a more comfortable circular seating arrangement of theater in Elizabethan times like The Globe, The Rose and The Blackfriars.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" continues through April 11, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15, \$10 students. The Waterloo Bridge Playhouse is located at 475 Third Ave., at 10th St. in Gowanus. For reservations, call (212) 502-0796 or visit waterloobridge-475.com. — Paulanne Simmons

BOOKS

Vegan guide

Rynn Berry is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the publication of "The Vegan Guide to New York City" with a new edition.

In the 2004 edition, Berry, a Prospect Heights resident who serves as historical advisor to the North American Vegetarian Society, and co-authors Chris Abreu-Suzuki and Barry Levy offer a treasure trove of culinary information for vegetarians, vegans and raw foods enthusiasts.

The book covers all of Manhattan's neighborhoods with chapters on restaurants, juice bars, the authors' favorite health food shops, greenmarkets, raw food resources and bookstores.

Bliss in Williamsburg and Prospect Heights' Green Paradise get thumbs up from the authors, too.

Under the chapter titled "Why Veganism?" Berry explains, "Vegetarians avoid meat because of the animal suffering, negative health effects, and environmental damage involved in eating carcasses." As Leo Tolstoy put it, Vegans carry these reasons to their logical conclusions and avoid using animal products, to the extent possible."

"The Vegan Guide to New York City" by Berry and Abreu-Suzuki with Litsky (Ethical Living, 2004) can be purchased at Barnes & Noble [267 Second Ave., between 2nd and 3rd Streets, (212) 254-6060], The Community Book Store [143 Seventh Ave., at Carroll Street, (718) 783-3075], and Back to the Land [142 Seventh Ave., at Carroll Street, (718) 768-5654] in Park Slope; and Perelandra [175 Remsen St., at Court Street, (718) 855-6068] in Brooklyn Heights. — Tina Barry

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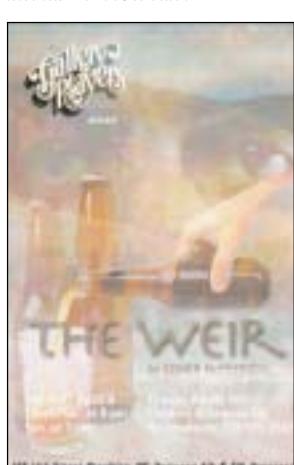
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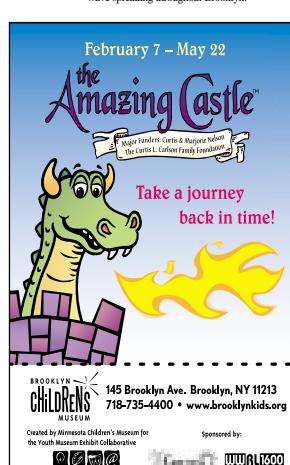
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Dear Diary

A day-by-day account of my love affair with a new women-only fitness center

By Lisa J. Curtis

If you, too, have wondered if there is an alternative to gyms filled with the sounds of clanging barbells while the only staff you see on a regular basis are men carrying baskets of trash or towels, read this workout journal about a writer's first-hand experience at the Curves fitness and weight loss center for women.

March 10, 10:30 am

My first visit to the Curves gym on Court Street in Carroll Gardens. Introduced to manager Lori Markman, 26, a certified personal trainer. She quizzed me on my reasons for wanting to work out and was writing.

"If you workout three times a week, you will see a change,"

Markman assured.

One of the questions Markman asked me from the "figure analysis" form was, "What has been your heaviest weight?" (In my case, it's the weight I am now, and never mind.) After "When?" the options are: "After pregnancy." Ok that makes sense. I'm a mom, and it also makes sense. But I'm happily married.

But then there was "After Marriage." That's me! Who knew that when my husband was whirling me around the dance floor for the first time as son and wife a year and a half ago, that I would rapidly swell like a water balloon?

Well, apparently the people at Curves knew. Markman sweetly told me that she too had gained weight after

getting married. Although it's nice that I'm not alone, she's bounced back well, and I'm still all bounce and no tone. At certain ages, like 30, your metabolism slows down, explained Markman. The combination of variables apparently gave me a serious one-two punch — them.

In addition to explaining how Curves' circuit training works, Markman also explained that all of this sweat and hard work wouldn't pay off if I didn't eat right. Dr. Slim prescribed adding eight glasses of water a day to my diet; a warning to keep an eye on my portion sizes; and to avoid bleached flour, sugar and those other menacing simple carbohydrates.

My goals, which Markman assessed as minimal, were to lose weight, diminish stress, sleep well and firm up my body — which would be evenly toned by Curves' hydromechanical resistance machines.

Markman explained that the pricing policies depend on the ever-changing advertised promotions. (Without any discounts, there is a \$149 sign-up fee and \$49-a-month-plus-tax fee.)

Markman explained that the

pricing policies depend on the ever-changing advertised promotions. (Without any discounts, there is a \$149 sign-up fee and \$49-a-month-plus-tax fee.)

I was relieved to start sitting down, then I had to make an appointment to come back for my first workout. I had a first workout on the spot. Markman explained how to maintain good form on each machine to get maximum results. Two-and-a-half times around the circuit of machines, alternating between heavy boards, in a 30-minute, full-body workout followed by stretching.

Markman gave me tips on the stretching, too, ending with a pose ly-



No danger, Curves ahead! Curves manager and personal trainer Lori Markman assists Judy Reyes in performing her workout on the recovery board. The "tree of success" wall mural behind them lists the names of clients and the inches and pounds they have lost.

ing on our backs on a mat, with our hands under our knees and hugging our legs to our chest.

"Here people like I to close your eyes," she said. "Thank you for doing something for you today."

I would have howled with laughter, but Markman was very sincere about the women being supportive of each other at Curves and I wanted to fit in. (Although mostly I just wanted to comfortably sit in a chair again.)

The brilliance of the Curves workout is that you do as many repetitions, as fast as you can on each machine until a recording interrupts the pop music and tells you to change stations. Occasionally you are asked to step away from the machine and do a brief cool-down. You are encouraged to do anything on the recovery boards — from marching in place to jogging in place to knee raises — to keep the heart rate up between machines.

I was relieved to finish training, aerobic workout, lightly sweating, thinking, "This is a piece of cake!" I went into the changing room, mopped up with a towel — there aren't any shower facilities at Curves — and was on my way.

For maximum results, I should do the workout three times a week, advised Markman, and to burn even more calories, try the aerobic workouts.

March 12, 7 pm

This time, I'm on my own, although a Curves class is on the schedule. I'm about to realize that form needs to be adjusted. (I kept forgetting to swing one arm at a time, instead of both arms at the same time, on a machine that works the biceps and triceps.)

Although she was no longer at my station, I overheard Markman's advice to scooch into the machines first, like sliding into a limo, a first time, but first, like sliding into a limo with a fancy dress on. But now that I had,

During the cool down, instructor Lauren Blase Miller demonstrates stretches for the author.

for the most part, a handle on how machines worked, I could concentrate on getting in as many reps as possible.

Curves' hydraulic resistance machines don't have weight stacks to manage, so you are asked to step away from the machine and do a brief cool-down. You are encouraged to do anything on the recovery boards — from marching in place to jogging in place to knee raises — to keep the heart rate up between machines.

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"This is a piece of cake!" I went into

the changing room, mopped up with a

towel — there aren't any shower facil-

ties at Curves — and was on my way.

For maximum results, I should do

the workout three times a week, advised

Markman, and to burn even more cal-

ories, try the aerobic workouts.

March 12, 7 pm

This time, I'm on my own, although a Curves class is on the

schedule. I'm about to realize that

form needs to be adjusted. (I kept

forgetting to swing one arm at a time,

instead of both arms at the same time,

on a machine that works the biceps

and triceps.)

Although she was no longer at my

station, I overheard Markman's

advice to scooch into the machines

first, like sliding into a limo, a first

time, but first, like sliding into a limo

with a fancy dress on. But now that I had,

During the cool down, instructor Lauren Blase Miller demonstrates

stretches for the author.

for the most part, a handle on how

machines worked, I could concentrate

on getting in as many reps as pos-

sible.

Curves' hydraulic resistance ma-

chines don't have weight stacks to

manage, so you are asked to step away

from the machine and do a brief cool-

down. You are encouraged to do any-

thing on the recovery boards — from

marching in place to jogging in place

to knee raises — to keep the heart rate

up between machines.

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marching in place to jogging in place

to knee raises — to keep the heart rate

up between machines.

Health and fitness centers

Harbor Fitness

191 15th St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-6200. Mon.-Fri., 5 am to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

921 Fourth Avenue, at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-9400. Open 24 hours.

OF NOTE: "Salsa Groove," a one-hour workout to salsa music with a salsa move; "On The Ball," a one-hour resistance ball workout to music. Classes available one hour.

Eastern Athletic Clubs

17 Eastern Parkway at Grand Army Plaza in Prospect Heights, (718) 789-4600. Mon.-Thurs., 6:30 am to 10 pm; Friday, 5:30 am to 11 pm; weekends, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

OF NOTE: Half-court basketball and Junior Program (karate and swimming classes for kids). Register on Monday, March 22, for spring program.

40 Clinton St. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 620-2500. Mon.-Fri., 6:30 am to 11 pm; weekends, 9 am to 7 p.m.

OF NOTE: Pilates Studio and Junior Program sports classes (swimming, dance, tennis, squash, martial arts,

kettle bell, rollerblading and more) for kids ages 8 months to early teen. Registration is Monday, March 22, for Junior Program.

Park Slope Sports Club

330 Flatbush Ave. at Sterling Place, in Park Slope, (718) 783-5100. Mon.-Thurs., 5:30 am to 1 pm; Friday, 5:30 am to 10 pm; weekends, 7 am to 7 pm.

OF NOTE: Johnny G Spin class featuring one hour of cardio music; and Pilates Studio, with both mat and IMX machines.

Body Elite

349 Court St. at Union Street, in Carroll Gardens, (718) 935-0088. Mon.-Thurs., 5:30 am to 11 pm; Friday, 5:30 am to 10 pm; weekends, 8 am to 9 p.m.

OF NOTE: New tanning annex, featuring Mystic Tan. UV-free tanning machines.

Inches A Weigh

9712 Third Ave. at 97th Street, in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-0444. Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 am to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 am to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 9 am to 1 p.m.

OF NOTE: Pilates Studio and Junior Program sports classes (swimming, dance, tennis, squash, martial arts,

Repose Yoga

8325 Fifth Ave. at 83rd Street, in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-0174. Visit www.repose-yoga.com for class schedule.

spring with Lisa Campbell Ernst. She reads from her book "Walk, Run, Fly: How to Find Your Body's Natural Movement." 100 Cour St. See Sat., March 20.

246-4156. Free.

REBELLION: Brooklyn Museum of Art presents "Creature From the Black Lagoon" (1952). \$6. 1 pm and 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 580-8422.

SEA STORES: NY Aquatics presents "Circus of the Sea" for children ages 4 to 12. 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 439-1099.

WALKING TOUR: Learn about down town Manhattan's hidden gems with Mauricio Lorenzo. \$25. 2 pm to 5 pm. Saturday, 10 am to New York Marriott Marquis, 333 Adams St. (718) 701-0430.

SAT, MARCH 20**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

SCONCE: First Evangelical Free Church presents "The Great Land and Family in Concert." \$10 admission, 6:30 pm. Sixth Avenue and 66th Street, (718) 787-1000.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Edward Hall and Propeller, "Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'." \$6. 8 pm. 365 Broadway, (718) 636-8500. Mon.-Sat., 8:30 pm; Sunday, 2 pm.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents "Enter Laughing." 3 pm. Brooklyn College Auditorium, 3000 Broadway, (718) 263-2752.

THEATER NEXUS: BRIC studio presents "Theater NEXUS: Theater for Young Audiences." \$10. 8 pm. 57 Rockwell Place, (718) 384-8700.

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WATERLOO THEATER: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams. \$10. 8 pm. 12th Street and 3rd Avenue, (718) 636-4100.

PAINTING: Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts an eight-week painting class for adults. \$100. 1 pm to 4 pm. 100 Washington Ave. Call for info. (718) 235-7220.

WORSHIP: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents Alexa Caputo in "Because I Love You." \$10. 8 pm. 57 Rockwell Place, (718) 384-8700.

THEATER: Goldstein High School on Broadway presents "Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams. \$10. 8 pm. 12th Street and 3rd Avenue, (718) 636-8500.

SHAKESPEARE: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents the musical comedy "La Cage Aux Folles." \$15. \$12 seniors and students, \$10. 8 pm. 57 Rockwell Place and Judie Church, Avenue 1 and Lake Street, (718) 518-3008.

THE JAZZ SCAPE: Brooklyn Lady Got Chops Women's Jazz String Quartet performs at Brooklyn Public Library, 375 Kosciusko St. (718) 787-1244.

PETE'S CANDY STORE: presents "The Candy Counter." 3 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, 375 Kosciusko St. (718) 787-1244.

ARTY FACTORY: Brooklyn Museum of Art presents "Art Yarns." \$6. adults, free for members and children age 12 and under; 11 am and 2 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 588-5000.

BAM: BAM presents underground music with Karen Gibson Rock. \$10. food drink minimum. 8 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave., (718) 636-4100.

PAROL JAZZ: Women's History Month concert with violinist Nicolle Martino. \$10. 8 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave., (718) 636-4100.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents "Enter Laughing." 3 pm. Brooklyn College Auditorium, 3000 Broadway, (718) 263-2752.

COMEDY: At the Brooklyn Brew-Ha-Ha, 109 1/2 Franklin St. (718) 628-8875.

BLUES: Brooklyn Blues Band. No cover. 155 Atlantic Place. Call for info. (718) 628-8875.

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OTHER: Sale at Christ Church of Bay Ridge, family houses, books, clothing and more. 10 am to 3 pm. 7301 Ridge Blvd. (718) 745-5472.

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Park Slope Sports Club

330 Flatbush Ave. at Sterling

Place, (718) 788-0003. Mon.-Fri., 7 am to 9 pm; Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm; Sunday, 8 am to 5 pm.

OF NOTE: Johnny G Spin class featuring one hour of cardio music; and Pilates Studio, with both mat and IMX

machines.

Good Coffeehouse

11 Flatbush Ave. at Fulton Street, in

Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 624-6290.

OF NOTE: Herbalist and nutritionist on site; juice bar plus all organic, home-cooked vegetarian breakfast, lunch and dinner items for take-out; bulk herbs; vitamins; and produce and grocery items; natural beauty products, books and magazines.

For Healthy Eating

Veggie Delight Natural Foods

11 Flatbush Ave. at Fulton Street, in

Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 624-6290.

OF NOTE: Herbalist and nutritionist on

site; juice bar plus all organic, home-

cooked vegetarian breakfast, lunch and dinner items for take-out; bulk herbs; vitamins; and produce and grocery items; natural beauty products, books and magazines.

For Weight Loss

Diet Center

189 Montague St. at Clinton Street,

Suite 508, in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-0189. By appointment only.

OF NOTE: 21-day, lower-carb weight loss plan.

Repose Yoga

825 Fifth Ave. at 83rd Street, in Bay

Ridge, (718) 719-0174. Visit www.repose-yoga.com for class schedule.

Repole

100 Washington Ave. at 57th Street,

Brooklyn Heights, (718) 384-8700.

OF NOTE: Site; juice bar; and open to all.

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Brooklyn Heights, (718) 384-8700.

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The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Gjel

March madness

Somehow, the fact that these dogs seem frozen in mid-air is less amazing than the snow that fell Tuesday, four days before the start of spring. The dogs, by the way, are not real, but a sculpture on the Metrotech commons.

Ortiz: Breathalyzers for drivers

By Michael Gormley
Associated Press

The lawmaker who brought New York's nation's first ban on hand-held cell phones while driving now wants every driver in the state to pass a Breathalyzer test for alcohol before getting behind the wheel.

Even staunch anti-drunk driving advocates, though, say there is little likelihood the measure will pass.

Assemblyman Eliot Luria of Suffolk and Sen. Fred Brook and the "ignition interlock" device would require a driver to breathe out hard for five seconds while humming "do-o-o" to start the car. After three failures, the car won't start for 15 minutes.

When driving, the test will be required every 20 to 40 minutes, with five-minute warning to pull over if the driver prefers. Failing or ignoring the test won't stop the car, but the horn will

sound repeatedly. Drivers would also have to report every month or so to a service center.

The cost of the under-the-dashboard devices is \$800 to \$1,000 installed. Ortiz said he believes the devices in all cars start in 2006.

Forty-four states, including New York, require the devices in at least some convicted drunken drivers' vehicles and often require it for repeat offenders, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

No state has the bill for the devices for all drivers and a New Mexico bill similar to Ortiz' died in February.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving thinks mandating the device for all drivers goes too far — at least for now.

"We've got to get convicted drunk drivers and that's what's important," said Wendy Hamilton, national MADD president. "We see no research that tells us this would be effective

and we don't think the world is ready for this at this time. Perhaps in the future ... but that's pretty far down the road at this time."

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers opposes bill because it would assess a Breathalyzer technology. For example, a sober passenger could breathe into the device in a drunken driver's place. Manufacturers are working on devices that "recognize" the driver.

The group also opposes a "broadband" device.

"You're asking a large portion of the population to basically have to have this technology because of something a very small percentage of the population is doing," said Charles Territo of the manufacturers' group.

Ortiz, however, said dramatic action is needed.

"The gloves need to come off in this fight," the Democrat said.

Ortiz said New York motorists would

end up saving money because of fewer drinking-related accidents and deaths.

"Most people would probably think of a device like this as an inconvenience ... almost ludicrous," said Randy Hauck. His son, Christopher, died in 2002 when he was a passenger in a fatal drunken driving crash.

"It's not a right to drive a car while intoxicated," Hauck said in an emotional statement. "That's a right to kill, a license to go out and maim — I have a son, or had a son, and I don't want to experience that again."

The debate in New Mexico and now in New York is paving the road for the use of the devices as technology improves and the cost drops, said New Mexico Sen. Kent Cravens, a Republican who sponsored the measure there. "I think it's a good idea, especially where it's passive, almost invisible ... we're not that far off," Cravens said. "It seems like an overreach, but that's what they said about seat belts and air bags, too."

CHEAP EATS...

Continued from page 1

Bronx for years because of our restaurants."

Perusing plates of pork filet Wellington from Court Street's Marco Polo Ristorante, mini-burgers from Union Street's Schmack, and sushi from Blue Ribbon Sushi on Fifth Avenue, Markowitz couldn't resist biting into a jumbo-sized chocolate devil's food cupcake made lovingly by Fran Sippel

of Downtown Atlantic, in Boerum Hill. Chris Sippel, Fran's cousin and general manager of the restaurant at 364 Atlantic Ave., said the borough president had asked him to keep the cupcakes, which he correctly presumed would disappear soon after their unveiling.

"Marty came over to us right away and asked us to save him one," Chris Sippel said of the cupcakes.

Conspicuously missing from the lineup are the 118-year-old Peter Luger Steak House in Williamsburg and the River Cafe at Fulton Ferry Landing, which are currently temporarily quadruple the \$18 prix fixe. "We can't offer it at this time due to the high cost of our ingredients," said Scott Stambler, a manager at River Cafe. Joe Chirico, who last

month closed his historic Gage & Tollner restaurant in downtown Brooklyn, stopped by the unveiling at Borough Hall on Thursday to show off a few entrees from Gage Pinto, his Italian-style dining establishment in Carroll Gardens.

"Anything to promote Brooklyn," said Chirico, who displayed a mango-chicken and spinach entrée for reporters.

In contrast to Manhattan's event, which charges a fee to

participating restaurants, all of the eateries in Brooklyn were allowed to participate for free, said Markowitz spokeswoman Sharon Toomer.

Chirico, who dines there three times a week, said he didn't know whether restaurants would be accepting them this far in advance.

For a full list of participating restaurants, log onto www.BrooklynEats.com and click on the GO Brooklyn link.

REAL ESTATE

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DRIVER LIC. # _____ BIRTH DATE _____ (if Joint) _____

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- Once ordered, a Classified AD MAY NOT be cancelled before its first insertion.
- Ads ordered and paid for by deadline are generally included in the next edition. Delays in insertion may be held at the discretion of the paper based on production and space considerations. The Brooklyn Papers shall be under no liability for its failure for any cause to insert an advertisement.

• Contract rates for The Brooklyn Classifieds are "rate holders" — no skipped issue permitted.

• Special "package price" and other discounted multiple insertion rates require payment for the total number of weeks ordered, may not be cancelled and may not be short rated to achieve a lower rate on renewal.

In the event of an error in a published ad, please contact The Brooklyn Papers by the first deadline following publication.

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